

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00164 010148Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /094 W

----- 122711

R 301209Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1279

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: CONTROVERSY GROWS OVER TROOP DEPLOYMENTS

REF: BELFAST 158

1. LOYALIST UNEASE OVER REPORTS AND RUMORS OF PHASE DOWN IN ARMY ROLE ESPECIALLY IN BELFAST AREA GROWING INTO MAJOR CONTROVERSY. APPARENTLY ACCURATE REPORT THAT COMPANY SIZE UNIT NORTH BELFAST PRIMARILY IN CATHOLIC SHORT STRAND ENCLAVE BEING REPLACED BY MILITARY POLICE COINCIDED WITH RUMOR REPORTED BY VANGUARD UNIONIST PARTY THAT ARMY PLANNING TO PULL OUT OF DANGEROUS WEST BELFAST ANDERSONSTOWN-SPRINGFIELD ROAD AREA. THESE REPORTS AND RUMORS AUGMENTED BY NEWS THAT ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) UNITS RECEIVING INTENSIVE TRAINING IN GREAT BRITAIN TOGETHER WITH DISCLOSURE PLANS TO PROVIDE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) WITH ARMORED VEHICLES AND NEW FIREARMS LED VANGUARD UNIONIST LEADER MP WILLIAM CRAIG TO SEEK MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE MERLYN REES APRIL 28 AND 29.

2. AFTER LATEST MEETING CRAIG IN RADIO INTERVIEW, SAID THAT HE WAS SATISFIED THAT REDEPLOYMENT IN WEST
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00164 010148Z

BELFAST WOULD NOT RPT NOT AFFECT LEVEL OF ARMY FORCES

AND WAS BASED ON MILITARY DECISIONS BY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING.

3. DEMOCRATIC UNIONISTS WHO ENJOY GOOD ACCESS TO SECURITY INFORMATION HAVE REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING RECENTLY ON ARMY PLANS. HOWEVER IT RECALLED REV. WILLIAM BEATTY, IAN PAISLEY'S DEPUTY IN CONVENTION FIRST RAISED QUESTION WHY RUC WAS TO BE GIVEN HEAVY WEAPONS TRAINING. LOYALISTS HAVE NOT YET HAD TIME TO REACT TO STATEMENT BY PROVISIONAL LEADER DAVID O'CONNELL ON TELEVISION SPECIAL APRIL 29 THAT SOME IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT CIRCLES WERE PRIVATELY COMMITTED TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ULSTER. HOWEVER, THIS STATEMENT IN LIGHT OF UNEASE ABOUT TROOP REDEPLOYMENTS WILL ADD TO LOYALIST ANXIETIES.

4. IN SECURITY CONTEXT, ONE PROTESTANT KILLED AND ANOTHER WOUNDED APPARENTLY IN SECTARIAN ASSASSINATION COUNTY TYRONE MURDER TRIANGLE. THERE TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS INSIDE BELFAST PROTECT AREA AND ARMY DISCONNECTED MULTIPLE-MORTAR DEVICE ANTRIM SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN ATTACK ON ALDERGROVE AIRPORT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOMBING, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DEATH REPORTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00164
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760166-0936
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976045/aaaaadfc.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BELFAST 158
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <15 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTROVERSY GROWS OVER TROOP DEPLOYMENTS
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006